

Message Text

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SUBJ: ELECTRONIC AND OTHER DIALOGUES

REF: STATE 189265; WARSAW 5162

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED THE PAO ON OCTOBER 19 THAT THE ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE WOULD HAVE TO BE "INDEFINITELY POSTPONED." CHABASINSKI, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND CULTURAL COOPERATILS, CLAIMED THE GOP WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE PROPOSAL, BUT THAT THE "CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, AS WELL AS DOMESTIC EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOCAL PARTY CONFERENCE", RULED OUT CONSIDERATION OF THE ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE AT THIS TIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE MFA DID NOT WISH TO "BURY THE PROPOSAL", BUT MERELY TO POSTPONE IT TO A MORE PROPITIOUS TIME.

2. CHABASINSKI OVERRULED HIS VICE-DIRECTOR KONOPACKI ON THE DECISION TO HOLD THE DIALOGUE. KONOPACKI'S OFFICE ON OCTOBER 18 HAD INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT "EVERYTHING WAS SET." CHABASINSKI TOLD THE PAO THAT, HENCEFORTH, ALL CONDITIONS REGARDING THE DIALOGUE WOULD HAVE TO BE WITH HIM DIRECTLY AND NOT DKONOPACKI.

3. CHABASINSKI ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER A "REVERSE ELECTRONIC G IALOGUE" COULD BE ARRANGED WHERE HIGH-LEVEL POLISH OFFICIALS COULD BE INTERVIEWED BY THE AMERICAN PRESS THROUGH USIA FACILITIES. HE IMPLIED THAT THIS MIGHT EXPEDITE THE GOP'S

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DECISION ON OUR PROPOSAL. HE ALSO REFERRED TO DIRECTOR

KEOGH'S DISCUSSION WITH VICE MINISTER SPASOWSKI REGARDING JOURNALISTIC EXCHANGES AND SUGGESTED THE "DOUBLE" DIALOGUES COULD BE AN APPROPRIATE START FOR SUCH EXCHANGES. ADVISE.

4. DURING ENTIRE COURSE OF DISCUSSION, CHABASINSKI COMPLAINED ABOUT THE IMBALANCE IN OUR MUTUAL CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE THE PAO WITH A DOCUMENTATION OF THE "TREMENDOUS AMERICAN CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENCE" IN POLAND. HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO TALK ABOUT ONE-TO-ONE RECIPROCITY, BUT NOTED HIS OFFICE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY KEEPING UP WITH EMBASSY INITIATIVES (WESTERN ART EXHIBIT, JEFFERSON/FRANKLIN EXHIBIT, ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE, FILM WEEKS, AMERICAN CIVILIZATION CENTER, ETC.). HE SAID HE WOULD BE REQUESTING A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH THE PAO AT A LATER DATE TO REVIEW THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF OUR "ONE-WAY CULTURAL PENETRATION OF POLAND." FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR MEETINGS WITH HIM, CHABASINSKI HINTED AT A POSSIBLE CUTBACK IN THE EXTENT OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THE MFA WISHED TO AVOID THIS POSSIBILITY. THE PAO AGAIN AVOIDED CHABASINSKI WITH A RUNDOWN OF POLISH CULTURAL EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES INCLUDING THE MANY ACTIVITIES IN POLISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. CHABASINSKI DIS-COUNTED POLONIA CULTURAL EVENTS AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED TO ACHIEVE ACCESS TO MASS, NON-POLONIA AUDIENCES VIA TELEVISION, FILM AND BOOKS. THE PAO SAID THE US GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACCEPT THE BLAME FOR THE GOP'S FAILURE IN PROMOTING POLISH CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS VIA AMERICAN COMMERCIAL TELEVISION, RADIO OR FILM DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS. CHABASINSKI TRIED TO ARGUE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT COULD SUFFICIENTLY INFLUENCE AMERICAN COMMERCIAL OUTLETS IN ACCEPTING POLISH MATERIALS. THE PAO SAID OUR ASSISTANCE WAS LIMITED TO FACILITATION AND NOT DICTATION.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE MFA IS BUILDING UP TO SOME FORMAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR SOME RECIPROCITY. WHEN DIRECTLY ASKED TO CONFIRM OUR PREVIOUS MUTUAL AGREEMENT THAT OUR CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL EXCHANGES PROGRAM SHOULD OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF VERBAL UNDERSTANDINGS ONLY, CHABASINSKI SAID: " I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE TO SIGN PAPERS, BUT WE DO." WHEN TOLD THIS DID NOT SQUARE WITH STATEMENTS BY OTHER MFA OFFICIALS AND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, CHABASINSKI SAID AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI WOULD BE BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE ON MFA THINKING WHEN HE ARRIVED IN WARSAW FOR THE PARTY CONFERENCE. DAVIES

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